



# HOWEY *Political Report*

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## Roemer's stock for DNC chair climbs as fight for party control is debated

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis  
and MARK SCHOEFF JR. in Washington

The center of gravity in the Democratic National Committee has returned to ...  
*Indiana? Red state Indiana?*

For the second time since 1998, a Hoosier may take the reins of the Democratic Party since House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid signalled their willingness to back Timothy Roemer as chair.

Roemer's stock has soared since his most historic contribution as an Indiana congressman -- the creation of the 9/11 Commission -- not only released a report that has carried historical gravitas, but resulted in the most profound reorganization of the U.S. intelligence apparatus since the CIA was founded after World War II.

The reason Democrats are looking to Roemer is because President Bush won the 2004 election mostly on national security issues. U.S. Sen. John Kerry was never able to establish his credentials on the Iraq War, where he was portrayed as a flip-flopper, and on homeland security. When the Osama bin Laden tape was released the Friday before the Nov. 2 election, the end result was the relatively small pool of undecideds broke dramatically for President Bush.

**The irony is that since the election,** the Bush administration has stumbled on national security. There was the Bernard Kerick Homeland Security Department nomination that not only went bust, but the *New York Times* revealed he had a love nest for his mistress overlooking Ground Zero at the World Trade Center site.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is under intense fire after he was questioned last week by a Tennessee National Guardsman who complained that he and his comrades were scrounging landfills to find armor for Humvees, which, ironically, are produced in Roemer's old congressional district. Rumsfeld has come under fire from U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, who contradicted the secretary's claims that production of



Former Indiana congressman and 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer may be the odds-on favorite to head the DNC. (9/11 Commission Photo)



"He had a peace about him. He was secure in who he was. He had a goodness in his heart. He had faith."

— Louis Trost about his nephew, Staff Sgt. Marvin Lee Trost III, killed on Dec. 5 in Iraq in a bombed, unarmored Humvee, (*Elkhart Truth*)

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|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Lugar, Bayh observe troubled Iraq | p. 3 |
| 2005 HPR 50 Most Influential      | p. 4 |
| Daniels ready to take risks       | p. 5 |
| Howey: Indianapolis & Indiana     | p. 6 |
| Columnists: Rich, Smith, Novak    | p. 7 |
| Ticker: Espich seeks \$1 billion  | p. 8 |

*Happy Holidays; We'll be back in 2005!*



Humvee and armor kits were at full capacity, and U.S. Sen. John McCain, who said earlier this week that he had "no confidence" in Rumsfeld.

Roemer played a significant role in landing the Humvee contracts for AM General in Mishawaka. Roemer was able to thrive in the very competitive 3rd CD (now the 2nd CD) in part because his credentials on national security and intelligence were so strong.

Roemer upset 10-year U.S. Rep. John Hiler in 1990 and made a name for himself early in his career pushing for ways to be fiscally prudent on the "peace dividend." He opposed NASA's space station. He supported much of the "Contract with America" following the 1994 Gingrich revolution. He voted for the conservative "Blue Dog Democrat" budget in 1995. He and U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, from Roemer's neighboring district in southwestern Michigan, called on Gingrich to pass temporary appropriations and, as the *Almanac of American Politics* observed, "was booed and hissed by fellow Democrats when he spoke for it on the House floor."

**Like Sen. Bayh, Roemer** would decry the harsh partisanship of the House, saying on the floor in 1995, "You can't talk about family values and balancing the budget without having bipartisanship and civility." He was one of 37 Democrats who wrote President Clinton urging him to sign the 1996 Welfare Reform Act.

Despite his moderate to conservative votes in 1995 and 1996, Roemer faced a challenge from State Sen. Joe Zakas, 58-41 percent, even though Zakas charged he had supported a sex survey of teenagers. After that election, he broke from the Blue Dog Democrats, uncomfortable with the mostly Southern stands on gun control and environmental issues. The *Almanac* noted a letter Roemer sent to House moderates: "If your experience on the campaign trail has been anything like ours, you have probably found that advocating traditional Democratic policies did not get you elected."

During his recent trip to Iraq, Sen. Bayh said he received a call from Roemer. Although Bayh couldn't connect with Roemer from overseas, he said he would back his former colleague. "We from Indiana support our own," he said. "I have high regard for Tim. He's a very capable individual." But Bayh also offered a tongue-in-cheek caveat. "I'm his friend. I'm not sure I'd wish this upon him."

**Appearing on CNN's *Inside Politics*** Wednesday afternoon, Roemer sounded like a man ready to accept the party's top post. "I'm flattered," he said. "The compliments are coming from the grassroots and from all 50 states."

Roemer noted that Democrats lost ground in 97 of the top 100 fastest growing areas in the U.S., among women and Hispanics. "We lost women on national security issues,"

Roemer said. "We need to be concerned not with just blue states, but with every state."

Roemer has a reputation as a moderate to conservative Democrat. He is a member of the Democratic Leadership Council, which is headed by Sen. Bayh. "I come from a red state," Roemer said. "I won six elections. I've worked with the Hispanic caucus." He said that Democrats "look like America," but are losing because they no longer appear to represent America on religion, security and faith values.

**"We need to hit the pedal** that we can be smarter on national security," Roemer said. "We need to be competitive in all 50 states. We need a chair that can go to Louisiana or Montana ... and talk about faith and talk about our values."

Roemer noted that in the homestretch of the Nov. 2 election, "Look who President Bush was seen with: Gov. Swartzenegger and Rudolph Guiliani. Those were people with whom he disagreed with on abortion. We need to converse on those issues and have a big tent on those issues."

And on such issues as privatizing part of Social Security, Roemer noted, "Wall Street will be concerned about the initial borrowing. The fund managers are going to get rich but the bond managers are going to be concerned. We should put an option on the table once the president puts one out there. We need to challenge the president on those."

**Indiana's last national chairman**, Joe Andrew, told *Slate* magazine that the job will change. In the 1990s, one of the chief jobs of the national party chairman was to "relate to a group of wealthy donors who financed literally a majority of the party's activities." Now that six- and seven-figure party donations are prohibited, the importance of big donors has decreased. In 1996 and 2000, the DNC conducted the functional equivalent of the national TV campaign for the Democratic presidential nominee. The McCain-Feingold reforms put a stop to that. Andrew argues that the days of "chair as business leader, chair as fund-raiser" are coming to an end, and that future chairs will be more likely to play the role of political strategist. "There is no time, at least in the television era, where the national chair has really defined who the party is and what the party is all about."

All this comes as the liberal MoveOn.org's Eli Pariser put out a memo saying, "For years, the party has been led by elite Washington insiders who are closer to corporate lobbyists than they are to the Democratic base. But we can't afford four more years of leadership by a consulting class of professional election losers. In the last year, grass-roots contributors like us gave more than \$300 million to the Kerry campaign and the DNC, and proved that the party doesn't need corporate cash to be competitive. Now it's our party: we bought it, we own it, and we're going to take it back."





## Lugar, Bayh relate troubling observations about Iraq

By BRIAN A. HOWEY and MARK SCHOEFF JR.

INDIANAPOLIS - The news out of Iraq is ... troubling. The primary messengers are Indiana's two U.S. Senators.

"It is a dangerous, violent place," U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh said of Iraq during a news conference call with reporters on Wednesday. Bayh was disturbed by Iraqis who were equating "democracy with violence and lawlessness."

"Folks begin to think that they'd like to be free, but the first thing they'd like to be is alive," Bayh said. "We should have erred on the side of having more force instead of less."

"The only thing I can say with certainty is that this is going to be difficult," Bayh said just hours after hundreds of Hoosiers from Elkhart to Goshen lined the funeral procession of Staff Sgt. Marvin Trost III, killed on Dec. 5 when a roadside bomb hit his unarmored Humvee. "I would put the odds at 50-50. It will take more lives and blood and money than any of us would like. But we need to try and stick it through because the consequences of failure are going to be profound."

*Reuters* reported that Bayh is troubled by differing assessments from the CIA and Ambassador John Negroponte. "When you hear dramatically different opinions and assessments by officials of our government about the situation in Iraq in a matter of minutes, that bears further investigation as to why," Bayh said after speaking with Negroponte, military and intelligence officials. The *New York Times* reported that the CIA's station chief in Baghdad had painted a bleak picture of Iraq in a classified cable and cautioned that security was likely to deteriorate unless the Iraqi government made significant progress in asserting its authority.

"The ambassador obviously has to try and put a better face on things and with some reason, there are other things going on that do give some reason for hope," said Bayh. "My overwhelming first impression was how proud we can be of our service men and women. We're there for the most idealistic of reasons. We're not there for oil. We're not there for empire. It is a noble cause."

**Senate Foreign Relations** Chairman Richard Lugar was asked at the University of Indianapolis on Saturday whether democracy taking hold in Iraq was a reasonable expectation. The U.S. spent 15 years training the South Vietnamese army, only to watch it dissolve in 1974-75.

"I think it's possible but it's dependent on many events outside of Iraq," Lugar said. "Iran comes to mind. If a government evolves in Iran that is much more friendly to us, then the odds of things turning out well in Iraq will improve

materially. Since the government in Iran continues to be a theocracy, and the particular persons involved have designs on similar theocrats in Iraq, then this is something very different than a set of national governments and that could be difficult.

"And then there's ultimately the evolution of the Israeli-Palestinian question that continues to foment persons who interchangeably go back and forth to engage in terrorist activities. So it's a difficult neighborhood to fashion a democracy from scratch.

"Withdrawal of American forces almost ensures that the neighborhood takes on a very different character. At that point, almost everybody is free to come into play - Turks, Syrians, Iranians, Kurds, Hamas, whoever wants to come into play and carve up the territory. That was the nature of Iraq to begin with. It was an improbable country thrown together by the British and French who drew a line around and said, 'You're Iraq' and imposed a monarch with Saddam being the last of a series. It is a totally unnatural country. You're trying to have a democracy with something that was unstable to begin with."

**Other news has been equally troubling.** The *Indianapolis Star* reported that Congressional estimates indicate that up to half of the 1,281 troops killed and 9,000 troops wounded in Iraq were victims of hidden roadside bombs that penetrated poorly armored Humvees or trucks ambushed on military convoys. The *Christian Science Monitor* reported the Army National Guard is short 5,000 new citizen-soldiers. CBS' *60 Minutes* reported that the Defense Department has acknowledged 5,500 desertions since the Iraq war began.

And on NBC's *Meet the Press*, retired Gen. Barry McCaffrey explained, "The fifth rotation will use up our National Guard and reserve. By law, you can't keep them on active duty more than 24 months. At that point, the inadequate size of the active Army and not just combat battalions, the logistic structure to make it work, at that point, we're going over a cliff. A year out from now we're in trouble."

McCaffrey explained, "The assumptions I thought were probably correct also, but my question was, if you're wrong, you risk a political military disaster going in without adequate planning, adequate forces, etc., which I think is what happened. We ended up from day one with the country destroyed by looters, a 26-million-person country. For God's sakes, 400,000-man active armed forces, a million man reserves. They weren't engaged. They walked away with their guns, their money, their leadership intact. So there was a sense of arrogance, but that I think is less concern to me than if your initial plan goes wrong, do you rethink it, do you see new realities and adjust rapidly? That's normally been a strength of the U.S. armed forces. We're not doing it now." ❖





## Dramatic changes in store for 2005 HPR 50 Most Influential list

INDIANAPOLIS - Print out this page.

Get a pen, pencil or magic marker (a yellow highlighter if you're in a pondering mood).

Go through the 2004 HPR Most Influential list and begin to excise the names of people who will be passing from our midst.

Now add the names -- Becky Skillman, Chuck Schalliol, Mitch Roob, Dan Parker, to name but a few -- who have reached new elevations of power and status.

Once completed, e-mail the list to HPR Publisher Brian Howey at [brianhowey@howeypolitics.com](mailto:brianhowey@howeypolitics.com). Do this by Jan. 2. It will be a perfect activity for your idle holiday moments!

Since the *HPR 50 Most Influential* list first appeared

in 1999, we've invited our readers to weigh in. This year, with the first interparty Statehouse transition in 16 years, the 50 Most Influential list will undergo its most dramatic changes.

Statehouse Democrats are largely out of power. The loss of Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst will mean profound changes in who has hallway clout at the legislature.

New power centers will come with Ways & Means Chairman Jeff Espich and new Senate leaders David Long and James Merritt.

**The HPR 50 Most Influential list** not only reflects clout, but also the times. Because 2005 will not be an election year, you can expect some of the party chairs to drop off the list, while influential budget legislators and lobbyists will rise.

In addition to the Daniels administration, Indiana Democrats will be seeking to recover, so we'll be cognizant of who to keep an eye on as the party looks to 2006 and beyond.

We will publish the 2005 list in our Jan. 6 edition.

## 2004 HPR 50 Most Influential List

1. Gov. Joe Kernan
2. Mitch Daniels
3. State Sen. Larry Borst
4. District Attorney Joseph Van Bokkelen
5. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh
6. U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar
7. Republican Chairman Jim Kittle Jr.
8. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson
9. Prosecutor Carl Brizzi
10. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence
11. Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton
12. House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer
13. Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis
14. House Minority Leader Brian Bosma
15. Ways and Means Chairman William Crawford
16. Chief Justice Randall Shepard
17. Democratic Chairman Joe Hogsett
18. Bernie Toon
19. Bill Oesterle
20. Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard

21. Kevin and Margaret Kellems
22. Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel
23. U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola
24. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson
25. Pat Kiely
26. Kevin Brinegar
27. Terry Thurman
28. U.S. Rep. John Hostettler
29. U.S. Rep. Baron Hill
30. U.S. Rep. Dan Burton
31. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder
32. U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky
33. State Rep. David Orentlicher
34. Gary Mayor Scott King
35. Bob Grand
36. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer
37. 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer
38. Marty Morris
39. First Lady Maggie Kernan
40. Tom Sugar
41. Secretary of State Todd Rokita
42. Shaw Friedman
43. Supt. Suellen Reed
44. Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy

45. St. Joseph County Chairman Butch Morgan
46. State Rep. Mike Murphy
47. Allen County Republican Chairman Steve Shine
48. House Majority Leader Russ Stilwell
49. Post-Tribune reporters Steve Patterson and Michael Puente
50. 9/11 Commissioner Lee Hamilton

### Honorable Mention

- Treasurer Tim Berry  
 Brian Burdick  
 Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter  
 Attorney General Steve Carter  
 Steve Chancellor  
 State Sen. Murray Clark  
 Deborah Daniels  
 Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez  
 Mary Downes  
 Rex Early  
 State Rep. Jeff Espich  
 State Sen. David Ford





## Daniels preparing to take some risks

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - When Gov. Elect Mitch Daniels cued up his appointment of Judge James W. Payne as director of the new Indiana Department of Child Services, he told the *Indianapolis Star* that he didn't want someone in charge of protecting Indiana's youngest who sat on a bench for 20 years "and never created a ripple."

"We are people of change. We are going to hire people of experimentation. We will take some risks," Daniels told the *Star*.

In these, the shortest days of daylight, Daniels is finding the task of building a new administration arduous. He is signalling his willingness to dive into the stickiest of wickets, his aim this week on transforming the largest and most troubled state agency -- Family Social Services Administration.

Child Protective Services and Child Support Services will be expunged from the broad FSSA umbrella. This is a follow-through of the early October campaign initiative to strengthen state support of troubled families.

Daniels used the child support inequities during that campaign sequence to try and retake the initiative after Gov. Joe Kernan's assaults on the IPALCO issue. Speaking at Christamore House with Rev. Olgen Williams, Daniels said in October, "As I travel the state, I constantly meet parents getting no help from dead-beat parents, and it's just not right," Daniels said, noting Indiana ranks 43rd in the nation child support compliance. "This is another stark example of the Family and Social Services Administration failing Hoosier families."

What he demonstrated this week was that child protection will be a priority, and not just fodder for the campaign.

He brought in Mitch Roob, a former Health and Hospital Administration director under Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith to orchestrate the reforms.

### Budget front

On the budget front, Daniels hired two state employees as deputy budget directors, including the first Democrat,

Anthony Armstrong, who heads what Daniels calls the "highly successful 21st Century Research and Technology Fund." Also staying is David Reynolds, a Republican and appointee of Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

"As I looked across the state to find top level talent for the Office of Management and Budget, I was delighted to find two of the best people already in state government," said OMB Director-designee Charles Schalliol. "I expect their experience and expertise to make significant contributions as we tackle Indiana's budget deficit."

"In meeting with David and Tony, I found them both to be very effective, knowledgeable, and committed public servants-just the type of people we want to continue their service to state government," said Daniels. "Along with Chuck Schalliol, Indiana will have a roster of financial and management all-stars leading the Office of Management and Budget."

While Daniels has been telling reporters that indicators are that the state's fiscal situation is "worse than previously reported," the Kernan administration contradicted that claim. The deficit faced by state government this year has shrunk to just under \$600 million because it has taken in \$229 million more in taxes than previously expected, Budget Director Marilyn Schultz said Tuesday.

### Other sticky wickets

The Daniels administration "china breaking" began with his appointments of Patricia Miller and State Sen. Becky Skillman to his team last May. After the election, he confronted daylight-saving time in his first press conference, saying he intended to slay that intractable problem.

Lt. Gov.-elect Skillman said she and Daniels have been sifting through the 90 ideas he included in the campaign's "road map" and dividing them into categories of "must do," "nice to do" and "might need to wait" (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). "After some study, we found they were all 'must do's,'" said Skillman, who is working on four basic legislative packages: jobs and economic growth, education, government reform and this (*bound to be a big hit in the legislature*) ethics and government integrity.

The *Courier-Journal* confronted one problem with a two-day package on illegal video machines that can be found in thousands of taverns, legion halls and service clubs. Battle lines are already sizing up pull tabs (slots for Colts?). What was particularly noteworthy is that the *Courier-Journal* has been the only news organization to take a hard look at gaming in Indiana. Its two-day series this week followed one it did in 2002. Missing was any kind of statistical, research quality data on the impact the gaming industry has had in Indiana since the lottery was passed in 1989 and casinos in 1993.

"The status quo where you have a law that's not being enforced is almost always a bad idea," Daniels told the *Courier-Journal*. ❖



Mitch Daniels, seen chatting with Rev. Olgen Williams at Christamore House last October, is opening the door to reforms in child protection. (HPR Photo)



## I live in Indianapolis, but I'm from Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS - My home is now in Indianapolis, but I'm from Indiana. I was born in Michigan City. Raised in Peru. Schooled at Vincennes and Bloomington. I've worked in Warsaw, Elkhart and Fort Wayne. I've lived in Morristown and Bristol.

Many of my friends and business associates here in Indianapolis come from some place else in Indiana. We ended up in Indianapolis because we weren't in agriculture. We didn't have a family business in our hometowns. We came here because of jobs, access and opportunities.

I bring all this up because of a notion that has been omni-present on the political hustings this year. The Mitch Daniels gubernatorial campaign kept talking about the "anti-Indianapolis" sentiments that are so strong across Indiana. He was particularly sensitive to these and overcame them to become the first native of Indianapolis to win that office. He was able to do that because he built a rapport and trust with Hoosiers from Bluffton to Lawrenceburg, from Middlebury to Crothersville.

When Daniels was asked by an Indianapolis woman at an African-American Coalition event about child care resources here, he answered that there were "many other areas in Indiana" with greater needs. There wasn't a peep of protest at that response.

With the Indiana General Assembly coming back to the Capitol in three weeks, you could expect these sentiments to grow in the smaller, parochial minds, particularly now that Indianapolis will be seeking help to reorganize its government (at no cost to anyone) and keep the Colts.

**State Rep. Chet Dobis** was recently quoted, "Indianapolis gets everything." This is a perception because there are more people living in Indianapolis than any other Hoosier city. Just as there was more to do in Elkhart than Peru, and more opportunities in Fort Wayne than Elkhart.

But the residents of Indianapolis give a lot, too. There is a lot of state property off the tax rolls in Center Township, and property taxpayers pay that price. Indianapolis residents foot a lot of the bills that support the things we all need and enjoy.

While you can hear "Kentucky jokes" told by folks across the state, you never hear folks in Indianapolis belittling out-state Hoosiers.

Never.

Many of my Indianapolis neighbors are quick to say where they're from and they do so with great pride. The peo-

ple I know who have come to serve in state government have a big brother or sister- mentality about their roots. They look out for the interests of Vincennes or Kendallville, Terre Haute or Crawfordsville. I hear this all the time. There are professionals here who watch out for farmers, cops and firefighters, manufacturers, and teachers.

**The people who live** in Indianapolis have an open embrace for all our Hoosier brothers and sisters. We take in your sick children at Riley Hospital, your cancers and bad hearts at IU Medical Center, Methodist and St. Vincent, your yearning students on our college campuses.

We celebrate your champions who come to our domes and fieldhouses. Conseco Fieldhouse was built, in part, due to a deal that raised workers compensation benefits for all Hoosiers, particularly those needing second, third or fourth generation prosthesis.

We host the biggest and greatest sporting event in the world -- the Indianapolis 500 -- where the owners have never come to Hoosier taxpayers for a handout, though the economic impact is felt for miles around. When I walk through the parking lots at Colts and Pacers games, I see scores of license plate prefixes from throughout the state.

When you come to our downtown to dine and drink, you don't have to be preoccupied with getting mugged. The City of Indianapolis hosts the Indiana Black Expo and the Circle City Classic. It made a concerted effort to successfully clean up the neighborhoods around the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Indianapolis taxpayers will spend more than a billion dollars to clean up its part of the White River (with virtually no complaints).

**The capital city's biggest** economic development effort of this generation -- the life sciences -- encompasses a corridor from Bloomington to Lafayette.

Now, what about Rep. Dobis' notion that "Indianapolis gets everything." Last I looked, there were four riverboat casinos in his backyard in Lake County. Last I looked, our two U.S. senators from Indianapolis were working diligently on behalf of the Chicago-Gary Airport and the Crane Naval facility in Southern Indiana.

When folks here in Indianapolis want to get away, we head for the Hoosier hills. I run into Indianapolis people everywhere I go, whether it's the lakes around Angola, the shops in Nashville and Madison, or the trails at Turkey Run and Shades, spending money and renewing friendships.

Indianapolis is the heart of Indiana, geographically, economically and metaphorically. It was created that way. It's health is critical to the rest of the state, just as the whole of Indiana is so vital to the folks here in the Circle City.

We're all in this together, folks. ❖







**Sylvia Smith**, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - A driver's license was nearly the undoing of legislation to revamp the nation's intelligence operations. This little piece of laminated plastic is an entree to much of American life: writing checks, buying booze, getting past security checkpoints at the airport, voting. Not to mention legally driving a car. It was also one of two issues that caused members of Congress to butt heads for weeks and that delayed action on the intelligence legislation, forcing the lawmakers to come back to Washington for a lame-duck session. The compromise that emerged requires the Transportation Department to tell states what information must be on driver's licenses. No longer will states have the option of including a digital photo or not, a signature or not. Both will be required along with a list of other information, all of which you'd expect and all of which Indiana's licenses already include: name, address, gender, date of birth, driver's license number. In addition, states will have to redesign their driver's licenses to include machine-readable identity data that includes "defined minimum data elements," which are not spelled out in the legislation. Beyond that, the Transportation Department will tell states what kind of documentation they will have to require before a driver's license can be issued. What the legislation does not do is forbid states to issue driver's licenses to undocumented aliens – an aspect that has made some conservative Republicans quite unhappy. They have vowed to introduce legislation next year to do just that. ❖

**Frank Rich**, *New York Times* - When they start pushing the panic button over "moral values" at the bluest of TV channels, public broadcasting's WNET, in the bluest of cities, New York, you know this country has entered a new cultural twilight zone. Just three weeks after the election, Channel 13 killed a spot for the acclaimed movie "*Kinsey*," in which Liam Neeson stars as the pioneering Indiana University sex researcher who first let Americans know that nonmarital sex is

a national pasttime, that women have orgasms and that masturbation and homosexuality do not lead to insanity. Yet even as the "*Kinsey*" spot was barred in New York, a public radio station in North Carolina, WUNC-FM, told an international women's rights organization based in Chapel Hill that it could not use the phrase "reproductive rights" in an on-air announcement. In Los Angeles, five commercial TV channels, fearing indecency penalties, refused to broadcast a public service spot created by Los Angeles County's own public health agency to counteract a rising tide of syphilis. Nationwide, the big three networks all banned an ad in which the United Church of Christ heralded the openness of its 6,000 congregations to gay couples. Such rapid-fire post-election events are conspiring to make "*Kinsey*" a bellwether cultural event of the year. Such is the perceived clout of this Republican base at government agencies like the FCC that it need only burp and 66 frightened ABC affiliates instantly dump their network's broadcast of that indecent movie, "*Saving Private Ryan*" on Veteran's Day. In the case of "*Kinsey*," the Traditional Values Coalition has called for a yearlong boycott of all movies released by Fox. (With the hypocrisy we've come to expect, it does not ask its members to boycott Fox's corporate sibling in the Murdoch empire, Fox News). ❖

**Robert Novak**, *Chicago Sun-Times* - Practical Democratic politicians, intent on reversing a decade of decline, feel trapped in a bad dream with Howard Dean as the most prominent prospect to be the party's national chairman. The mere thought of picking the 2004 presidential candidate who campaigned furthest to the left and was soundly repudiated by Democratic voters suggests inability to cope with political reality. Many Democrats I contacted entirely agree with me, but not publicly. Speaking in Washington last week, Dean sounded more like a candidate for president than chairman. ❖



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## Hoosiers line funeral route for soldier

ELKHART - As Staff Sgt. Marvin Lee Trost III's funeral procession moved Wednesday from a church in Elkhart to a cemetery in Goshen, it was greeted by large groups lining the route to wave and salute (*Elkhart Truth*). It passed under a huge American flag draped across the roadway outside Trost's alma mater, Concord High School. It was escorted by police cars and fire trucks, letting bystanders and motorists know someone special was passing through their midst. Family members noticed, and they appreciated the shows of support along the route. "We're grateful for those who came out and waved," said Louis Trost, the slain soldier's uncle.

## DNR inspector indicted

EVANSVILLE - In the spring of 2002, officials charged with protecting Southwestern Indiana's environment from leaking oil wells got a disturbing piece of news: One of their inspectors had failed to inform them he had been signing off on oil wells owned, in part, by his wife. Concerned about what looked like a conflict of interest, officials with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources notified the Indiana Ethics Commission, moved to fire the

inspector and began asking a lot of questions about how he had done his job (*Evansville Courier & Press*). They are not thrilled with what they allegedly have found. According to a 21-count federal grand jury indictment released Tuesday, the former inspector, Donald G. Veatch, and a government-paid contractor, Carl F. Hanisch, created bogus documents to hide substandard work done on leaking, abandoned oil wells in Vanderburgh County that were contaminating an Ohio River tributary. Now state officials are wondering how many of the state's 800 abandoned wells, many of which are in Southwestern Indiana, may be leaking oil into the state's waterways. "This hurts every inspector who's out there doing a good job," said Lt. Jeff Wells of the DNR's Division of Law Enforcement.

## Espich calls for \$1 billion in high tech research

INDIANAPOLIS - A key lawmaker said yesterday that Indiana should invest \$1 billion over 10 years in high-tech research to encourage homegrown companies and compete for economic development with other states. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jeff Espich, R-Uniondale, said he will introduce legislation authorizing the state to issue bonds for the project so the money is available up front and the impact on the budget is spread over a longer period. "My purpose is to create research that will become applied research and will create jobs in this state," Espich said. "That's what it's all

about." While he has not worked out all the details, he said his plan would allow the state to spend up to \$200 million in any given year during the decade-long project.

## Distribution center headed to Gas City?

GAS CITY - Gas City might be on the verge of winning the biggest single economic development project for Grant County in recent years (*Marion Chronicle-Tribune*). Earlier this week officials in Wayne County said they would not be getting a 700-employee distribution center because it had been won by another Indiana community. "I'm totally baffled by it," Gas City Mayor H. Larry Leach said of some reports that have linked the new business to his city. "I've not received any confirmation of anything at this time."

## Lake County officials to lose their cars

CROWN POINT - The Lake County Board of Commissioners took the keys away from several top officials Wednesday when it put an end to the practice of going home in a county-owned car (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). The measure, put forth by Commissioner Gerry Scheub, D-Schererville, and backed by Commissioner Fran DuPey, D-Hammond, is to take effect Feb. 1. Scheub and DuPey gave up county vehicles before their reelection in November. ❖





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